



CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 21, 2007

CONTACT:
Joyce Kamen
Parks Public Relations
513.543.8109

Julie Horne
Parks Chief Business Officer
513.357.2606

Cincinnati Riverfront Park Receives \$25 Million Federal Authorization to Begin Park Construction

Measure expected to pass full House vote this week

CINCINNATI, OH:---The United States House of Representatives' Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has authorized \$25 million in Federal funding for the construction of Cincinnati Riverfront Park. The authorization for the Federal funds was included in a manager's amendment to the Water Resources and Development Act. The measure passed the full committee by a voice vote on Thursday, March 15. The provision is expected to pass the full House this week. The Senate has yet to act on the measure.

Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, who has worked on behalf of this measure for the past two years and is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said that the measure's passage in Committee "is the first step in getting the federal government involved in this vital development. While getting authorization for Federal funds is certainly not the last step in this process, it is undoubtedly a very vital step."

Congresswoman Schmidt acknowledged the support and assistance of Senator George Voinovich and Congressman Steve Chabot in achieving Committee passage of the measure.

-MORE-

“In addition to the outstanding efforts of Congresswoman Schmidt, Senator Voinovich and Congressman Chabot, the support of Mayor Mark Mallory, Cincinnati City Council and the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber have been invaluable in ensuring Committee passage of this extraordinary funding measure,” said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. “Cincinnati Riverfront Park, which will be built along 40 acres of downtown’s historic riverfront, will leverage the development of The Banks and serve as the neighborhood park for its tenants, visitors, and home owners. This is a tremendous step in achieving the vision of creating a new front yard for the citizens of our community. This crucial project—together with The Banks—has the power to fuel significant economic development, tourism and commerce for the entire region.”

If the measure passes in the House of Representatives, Senate passage is still required for legal authorization. The \$25 million Federal authorization in effect creates a \$50 million project since the Federal share must be matched on a 50/50 basis with non-Federal contributions. These contributions can include State, local and private funding as well as the land (to be contributed by the City and County) on which the park will be built.

Cincinnati Parks is overseeing the planning, development and building of Cincinnati Riverfront Park. Cincinnati Parks has been judged one of the top urban park systems in the country by the national *Trust for Public Lands*. “It is not an understatement to say that Cincinnati Riverfront Park will become an enduring destination landmark and a mighty regional gateway,” continued Carden. “I also wish to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the professional staff team at Cincinnati Parks. These individuals have skillfully guided this project to this major milestone since planning for the park first began in 1998. Now we are all looking forward to welcoming the entire community to the groundbreaking ceremony for the park later this year.”

-MORE-

For more information on Cincinnati Riverfront Park, log on to www.crpark.org.

MEDIA: For more information or to arrange for an interview, please contact Joyce Kamen, Parks Public Relations, at 513.543.8109; or Julie Horne, Parks Chief Business Officer at 513.357.2606.

###

*The City of Cincinnati's parks system contains more than 100 parks and greenspaces located throughout the City's neighborhoods on more than 5,000 acres.
Cincinnati Parks has been judged one of the best in the nation,
rated 'excellent' by the Trust for Public Land.*